United Nations S/2018/632

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 June 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 25 June 2018 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I am forwarding to you a letter dated 18 June 2018 from the Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established under Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), based on the Working Group's conclusions adopted on 4 May 2018 (S/AC.51/2018/1/Rev.1) (see annex).

(*Signed*) Vassily **Nebenzia**
President of the Security Council

18-10408 (E) 270618

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Annex

Letter dated 18 June 2018 from the Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict addressed to the Secretary-General

At its 70th formal meeting, on 12 March 2018, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict examined the second report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Mali (S/2018/136), covering the period from January 2014 to June 2017. At its 71st meeting, on 4 May 2018, the Working Group adopted its conclusions on children and armed conflict in Mali (S/AC.51/2018/1/Rev.1).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group and subject to and consistent with applicable international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), 2068 (2012), 2143 (2014) and 2225 (2015), I am entrusted, in my capacity as Chair of the Working Group, with:

(a) Requesting you to continue to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict in Mali and to maintain the child protection component of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), including through the deployment of child protection advisers throughout MINUSMA areas of operation, and noting that their key tasks include, among others, monitoring and reporting on violations and abuses committed against children, mainstreaming child protection within the Mission, training the Mission personnel and engaging in dialogue on action plans;

(b) Also requesting you to ensure that MINUSMA and the United Nations Children's Fund strengthen their efforts to further support, in line with their respective mandates, the Malian authorities in mainstreaming the specific needs of children affected by the armed conflict and the protection of their rights in all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and security sector reform, in establishing a joint mechanism for the review of cases of children detained on charges related to the armed conflict and association with armed groups, in conducting a screening and age assessment of the Malian defence and security forces and in establishing recruitment procedures and age assessment measures to prevent underage recruitment;

(c) Further requesting you to ensure that the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting continues its advocacy for the release and reintegration of children associated with armed groups and forces and children detained on charges related to association with armed groups and prioritizes its efforts to reach out to non-State armed groups, with a view to developing action plans to end the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law, as well as rape and sexual violence, and to address other violations and abuses committed against children in Mali.

(*Signed*) Olof **Skoog**
Chair
Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict